(d) Shri Sarup Singh has played the key role in selection of uniform cloth and Shri Gautam Guha has supplied the uniform cloth on behalf of M/s Mafatlal Industries. It has also been revealed that Shri Guha had paid Rs. 36.25 lakhs till date to Shri Sarup Singh, as illegal gratification.

The other officials involved in this case have not been arrested as their exact role in the matter is still being investigated.

(e) On completion of the investigation, appropriate action will be taken.

Telephones in the villages

472. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many out of six lakh villages in the country have been brought under telephone communications till date, State-wise; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to remove the deficiencies in North-Eastern Region as regards providing telephone connections in the villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As on 31.10.2001, 4,14,428 villages out of 6,07,491 villages have been provided with telephone facility. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) New technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), CDOT TDMA/ PMP and satellite for remote areas which cannot be covered with any terrestrial media have been planned for North-East Region. 61,500 lines of WLL system have been allotted for the current financial year for the North-East Region.

Statement

Status of VPTs as on 31-10-2001

Sl. No.	States	Village with VPTs
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	282
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23,401
3.	Assam	14,596
4.	Bihar	22,397
5.	Jharkhand	7,676

Sl. No.	States	Village with VPTs
6.	Gujarat	13,923
7.	Haryana	6,811
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14,671
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4,063
10.	Karnataka	27,056
11.	Kerala	1,530
12.	Madhya Pradesh	37,351
13.	Chhattisgarh	10,956
14.	Maharashtra	31,170
15.	Goa	371
16.	Meghalaya	1,321
17.	Mizoram	621
18.	Tripura	660
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	701
20.	Manipur	699
21.	Nagaland	662
22.	Orissa	25,615
23.	Punjab	12,687
24.	Rajasthan	23,843
25.	Tamil Nadu	17,899
26.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	61,911
27.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	18,942
28.	Uttaranchal	7,963
29.	West Bengal	23,713
30.	Sikkim	325
31.	Kolkata	421
32.	Delhi	191
	TOTAL:	414,428